(d) Government of India has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister of Goa to look into all aspects relating to the construction of new airport at Mopa.

Traffic at non-metro airports

2587. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of increase in the growth of air passengers in the non-metro cities; and

(b) what are the plans to cope-up with the growth of air traffic in such airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During 2000-01 to 2005-06, the compound rates of increase in the growth of air passengers in the non-metro cities for international and domestic traffic were 27.1% and 19.3% respectively.

(b) Development of airports is a continuous process depending upon various requirements, traffic potential, commercial viability etc. However, to cope with the growth in traffic on Non-Metro airports, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to modernise 35 selected Non-Metro airports to world class standards with focus on city side and air side development by the year 2010-11.

Expansion of air services from Madurai

2588. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make Madurai airport an international terminal; and

(b) whether the Srilankan Airlines has approached the Ministry to operate flights to and from Madurai connecting international destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Government has no proposal to upgrade Madurai airport as International airport. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a proposal to construct an Integrated Passenger Terminal at Madurai airport for handling both International and Domestic air passengers.

(b) No, Sir.